

Dear Sir,

I hope that you please pass on my thought to the members of the Public Works Committee.

To: the Public Works Committee of the Town of Amherst, Michael Cann, Robert Crowner, Donald George, Charles Moran, Vincent O'Conner, and Steve Braun

From: Susan Hugus.

Concerning: The closing of Lincoln Avenue.

Date: January 25, 2011

Dear Sirs,

I am writing you concerning the closing of Lincoln Avenue which has been brought up several times in the past several years. My husband and I live at 140 Fearing Street, so we will be affected by any change in traffic patterns on neighboring streets.

However, my real reason for contacting you about this closure is that I am concerned about the safety of the students and the workers who are at the University if an evacuation of this area is ever needed for some disaster or emergency.

Here is one example of what I am talking about: I used Google Maps to look at the core area of the University of Massachusetts and all of the vehicular entrances and exits to that area. The core area of the University is sort of a rectangle with only three, what I would call are major entrances and exits. Two of the major exits and entrances are on Massachusetts Avenue, and the third is at the site of the new rotary which allows cars to enter and leave the University through North Pleasant Street and Eastman Lane; however, there is no exit or entrance on the North West area of the campus so that this traffic must exit at one the above areas.

The secondary entrance and exit at Lincoln Avenue is smaller, but is easy to find since it directly intersects with Massachusetts Avenue which I see as an important exit that is needed.

The third tier entrances and exits to the core campus area are difficult to find unless one really knows their way around campus. I would include Clark Hill Road, Butterfield Terrace, Orchard Hill Drive, and Sunset Avenue. Also since these roads are small and allow only a few cars to leave at a time, I hope that you will understand why I am concerned about the safety of the approximately 20,000 who work and study at the University of Massachusetts at any given time.

I hope that you will consider the greater picture of what the closing of Lincoln will have on the welfare and safety of the entire Amherst area.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my comments.

Susan Hugus